

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EXDIS

FOL REPEAT ATHENS 5300 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 1

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S E C R E T ATHENS 5300

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: IMPROVED POSITION OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO  
GREEK MILITARY

1. PURSUANT TO MY EARLIER REPORTS, I BELIEVE IT MIGHT  
BE USEFUL TO DESCRIBE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS IN THE CARAMANLIS  
STRUGGLE TO GET CONTROL OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ELIMINATE THE  
THREAT OF A NEW COUP.

2. ONE STRONG ELEMENT FAVORING CARAMANLIS IS THE DISMAL  
AND CATASTROPHIC RESULTS OF THE IOANNIDES REGIME IN MANY  
RESPECTS BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE THREAT OF WAR IT BROUGHT  
AND THE PAINFUL LOSS OF POSITION AND POWER OF GREEKS AND  
GREEK CYPRIOTS IN CYPRUS. HIS ADMINISTRATION FRONTED BY  
ANDROUTSOPOULOS HAD IN FACT COLLAPSED. WARTHREATENED AND  
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CIVILIAN CABINET TOLD ANDROUTSOPOULOS TO QUIT. EVEN THEY,

AS REPORTED TO ME BY ZOLOTAS, REQUESTED RETURN OF KARAMANLIS.  
THE MILITARY REALIZED AT LAST THEY WERE BEYOND THEIR DEPTHS.

3. CARAMANLIS IS ALSO GIVING CLEAR IMPRESSION OF  
TAKING FULL COMMAND OF THE POLITICAL LIFE IN GREECE. HIS  
RESTITUTION OF THE PREFECTS, FORMER MINISTERIAL SECRETARIES  
GENERAL, AND CHIEF OF ATHENS POLICE IS LOUD AND CLEAR SIGNAL  
IN THIS DIRECTION. MOREOVER, THE SIGNATURE OF THE  
CONSTITUENT ACT RESTORING THE 1952 CONSTITUTION (EXCEPT FOR  
THE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE FORM OF THE STATE-I.E. MONARCHY  
OR REPUBLIC) IS ANOTHER CLEAR INDICATION OF DIRECTION.

4. ANOTHER ASSET, AND AN IMPORTANT ONE, THAT CARAMANLIS HAS  
IS AVEROFF AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HIS BRIDGE-BUILDING  
AND THE RESPECT, NOTWITHSTANDING HIS CONFESSED ROLE IN THE  
NAVY MUTINY IN 1973, WITH WHICH HE IS HELD BY THE MILITARY,  
GIVE HIM A KEY ROLE IN THE PROCESS OF SUBORDINATING ONCE  
AGAIN THE MILITARY TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITY IN THIS COUNTRY.  
HIS DECISIVE ACTION IN GETTING CARAMANLIS TO RETURN AND  
HIS ASSERTIVE COMMAND POSTURE WITHIN THE GREEK PENTAGON  
CAN BE DECISIVE IN THE PRESENT STRUGGLE.

4. AVEROFF APPEARS TO BE LEADING THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS  
TO COUNTERWEIGH ANY EFFORTS OF IOANNIDES AND HIS  
SUPPORTERS TO PREPARE TO RETURN. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF  
TOOK ME ASIDE AT SWISS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION TO TELL ME HE  
CONFIDENT GOG GETTING ARMED FORCES UNDER CONTROL. MAJOR  
SPANOS IS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO UNIT ON BULGARIAN-GREEK BORDER.  
IN REPLY TO MY INQUIRY ON IOANNIDES HE SAID HE BELIEVES HE  
HAS HARD UNDERSTANDING WITH IOANNIDES WHO HAS UNDERTAKEN TO  
SUPPORT CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO WORKING ON IOANNIDES'  
SUPPORTERS IN KYP AND IS AWARE DYP ROLE IN  
SUPPORT OF INTRASIGENT YOUNGER OFFICERS. AVEROFF SAID  
TELEPHONES NOT SAFE YET FOR COMMUNICATION BUT WILL BE IN  
SEVERAL DAYS. I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT AVEROFF FULLY  
APPRECIATES IMPORTANCE OF BEING CERTAIN REGARDING IOANNIDES'  
INTENTIONS.

5. THIS POSTURE IS CONSISTENT WITH MAVROS' OPTIMISM THIS  
MORNING. HE PARTICULARLY UNDERLINED TO ME THE IMPORTANCE  
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OF FACT THAT BY RESTORING 1952 CONSTITUTION BY A CONSTITUENT  
ACT ALREADY SIGNED BY GENERAL CHIZIKIS, AVEROFF'S AND GOVERN-  
MENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS MILITARY ENORMOUSLY STRENGTHENED.  
CARAMANLIS LIKELY TO MOVE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TOWARDS  
SOME CONSULTATION WITH THE ELECTORATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
THE GREAT POPULARITY HE PRESENTLY ENJOYS.

6. IN SUMMARY, CARAMANLIS POSITION RELATING TO MILITARY

CLEARLY BETTER. MAVROS WILL BRIEF MILITARY CHIEFS ON GENEVA  
TODAY AS WELL AS PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS, WHICH HE IS DOING WITH  
SOME RELUCTANCE.  
TASCA

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